



COMPUTER-AIDED NUCLEIC ACID SEQUENCING

COPYRIGHT NOTICE

A portion of the disclosure of this patent document contains material which is subject to copyright protection. The copyright owner has no objection to the
5 xerographic reproduction by anyone of the patent document or the patent disclosure in exactly the form it appears in the Patent and Trademark Office patent file or records, but otherwise reserves all copyright rights whatsoever.

SOFTWARE APPENDICES

Software Appendices A and B comprising six (6) sheets are included herewith.

10

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to the field of computer systems. More specifically, the present invention relates to computer systems for sequencing biological molecules including nucleic acids.

15 Devices and computer systems for forming an using arrays of materials on a substrate are known. For example, PCT applications WO92/10588 and 95/11995, incorporated herein by reference for all purposes, describe techniques for sequencing or sequence checking nucleic acids and other materials. Arrays for performing these operations may be formed in arrays according to the methods of, for example, the pioneering techniques disclosed in U.S. Patent Nos. 5,44,934 and 5,384,261, and U.S.
20 Patent Application No. 08/249,188, each incorporated herein by reference for all purposes.

According to one aspect of the techniques described therein, an array of nucleic acid probes is fabricated at known locations on a chip or substrate. A labeled nucleic acid is then brought into contact with the chip and a scanner generates an
25 image file (also called a cell file) indicating the locations where the labeled nucleic acids are bound to the chip. Based upon the image file and identities of the probes at specific locations, it becomes possible to extract information such as the nucleotide or monomer sequence of DNA or RNA. Such systems have been used to form, for

example, arrays of DNA that may be used to study and detect mutations relevant to genetic diseases, cancers, infectious diseases, HIV, and other genetic characteristics.

The VLSIPS™ technology provides methods of making very large arrays of oligonucleotide probes on very small chips. *See* U.S. Patent No. 5,143,854 and PCT patent publication Nos. WO 90/15070 and 92/10092, each of which is incorporated by
5 reference for all purposes. The oligonucleotide probes on the DNA probe array are used to detect complementary nucleic acid sequences in a sample nucleic acid of interest (the “target” nucleic acid).

For sequence checking applications, the chip may be tiled for a specific target
10 nucleic acid sequence. For example, the chip may contain probes that are perfectly complementary to the target sequence and probes that differ from the target sequence and probes that differ from the target sequence by a single base mismatch. These probes are tiled on a chip in rows and columns of cells, where each cell includes multiple copies of a particular probe. Additionally, “blank” cells may be present on
15 the chip which do not include any probes. As the blank cells contain no probes, labeled targets should not bind specifically to the chip in this area. Thus, a blank cell provides a measure of the background intensity.

For de novo sequencing applications, the chip may include all the possible probes of a specific length. These probes are synthesized on the chip at known
20 locations, typically with multiple copies of a particular probe in a cell. Blank cells may also be utilized to provide a measure of the background intensity.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides an improved computer-aided system for sequencing sample nucleic acid sequences from nucleic acid hybridization
25 information. The accuracy of nucleic acid sequencing is increased by analyzing the hybridization strength of related probes, where the related probes are identified according to mismatch information among the probes. The related probes may include single base mismatches or otherwise have identical subsequences. The methods of the present invention allow sequencing under conditions that do not allow
30 identification of all of the probes that are perfectly complementary to part of the target nucleic acid sequence nucleic acid sequence.

According to one aspect of the present invention, a computer system is used to sequence a nucleic acid by a method including the steps of: inputting hybridization intensities for a plurality of nucleic acid probes, the nucleic acid probes hybridizing with the nucleic acid sequence under conditions that do not allow identification of all
5 of nucleic acid probes that are perfectly complementary to part of the nucleic acid sequence; and sequencing the nucleic acid sequence according to selected nucleic acid probes.

According to another aspect of the present invention, a computer system is used to sequence a nucleic acid by a method including the steps of: inputting
10 hybridization intensities for a plurality of nucleic acid probes; selecting nucleic acid probes with highest numbers of single base mismatch neighbors among the probes, a single base mismatch neighbor being another probe that has the same sequence except for a single base that is different; and sequencing the nucleic acid sequence according to the selected nucleic acid probes.

15 According to another aspect of the present invention, a computer system is used to sequence a nucleic acid by a method including the steps of: inputting hybridization intensities for a plurality of nucleic acid probes; selecting nucleic acid probes that have fewer than a predetermined number of base mismatches with another probe; and sequencing the nucleic acid sequence according to the selected nucleic
20 acid probes.

According to another aspect of the present invention, a nucleic acid is sequenced by a method including the steps of: contacting a set of oligonucleotide probes of predetermined sequence and length with the nucleic acid under hybridization conditions that do not allow differentiation between (i) those probes of
25 the set which are perfectly complementary to part of the nucleic acid and (ii) those probes that are not perfectly complementary to part of the nucleic acid; selecting a subset of oligonucleotide probes that includes probes that are perfectly complementary to part of the nucleic acid and probes that are not perfectly complementary to part of the nucleic acid; and determining the sequence of the
30 nucleic acid by compiling overlapping sequences of the subset of probes.

A further understanding of the nature and advantages of the inventions herein may be realized by reference to the remaining portions of the specification and the attached drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 illustrates an example of a computer system used to execute the software of the present invention;

5 FIG. 2 shows a system block diagram of a typical computer system used to execute the software of the present invention;

FIG. 3 illustrates an overall system for forming and analyzing arrays of biological materials such as DNA or RNA;

FIG. 4 is an illustration of the software for the overall system;

FIG. 5 illustrates conceptually the binding of probes on chips;

10 FIG. 6 shows a high level flow of sequencing utilizing mismatch information;

FIG. 7 shows a high level flow of another embodiment of sequencing utilizing mismatch information;

FIG. 8 shows a straight mismatch matrix for use with the process of FIG. 7; and

15 FIG. 9 shows a skewed mismatch matrix for use with the process of FIG. 7.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Introduction

In the description that follows, the present invention will be described in reference to a Sun Workstation in a UNIX environment. The present invention,
20 however, is not limited to any particular hardware or operating system environment. Instead, those skilled in the art will find that the systems and methods of the present invention may be advantageously applied to a variety of systems, including IBM personal computers running MS-DOS or Microsoft Windows. Therefore, the following description of specific systems are for purposes of illustration and not
25 limitation.

FIG. 1 illustrates an example of a computer system used to execute the software of the present invention. FIG. 1 shows a computer system 1 which includes a monitor 3, screen 5, cabinet 7, keyboard 9, and mouse 11. Mouse 11 may have one or more buttons such as mouse buttons 13. Cabinet 7 houses a floppy disk drive 14
30 and a hard drive (not shown) that may be utilized to store and retrieve software programs including computer readable code incorporating the present invention. Although a floppy disk 15 is shown as the removable media, other removable tangible

media including CD-ROM, flash memory and tape may be utilized. Cabinet 7 also houses familiar computer components (not shown) such as a processor, memory, and the like.

FIG. 2 shows a system block diagram of computer system 1 used to execute the software of the present invention. As in FIG. 1, computer system 1 includes monitor 3 and keyboard 9. Computer systems 1 further includes subsystems such as a central processor 52, system memory 54, I/O controller 56, display adapter 58, serial port 62, disk 64, network interface 66, and speaker 68. Disk 64 is representative of an internal hard drive, floppy drive, CD-ROM, flash memory, tape, or any other storage medium. Other computer systems suitable for use with the present invention may include additional or fewer subsystems. For example, another computer system could include more than one processor 52 (i.e., a multi-processor system) or memory cache.

Arrows such as 70 represent the system bus architecture of computer system 1. However, these arrows are illustrative of any interconnection scheme serving to link the subsystems. For example, speaker 68 could be connected to the other subsystems through a port or have an internal direct connection to central processor 52. Computer system 1 shown in FIG. 2 is but an example of a computer system suitable for use with the present invention. Other configurations of subsystems suitable for use with the present invention will be readily apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art.

The present invention provides methods of analyzing hybridization intensity files for a chip containing hybridized nucleic acid probes. In a representative embodiment, the files represent fluorescence data from a biological array, but the files may also represent other data such as radioactive intensity, light scattering, refractive index, conductivity, electroluminescence, or large molecule detection data. Therefore, the present invention is not limited to analyzing fluorescence measurements of hybridizations but may be readily utilized to analyze other measurements of hybridization.

For purposes of illustration, the present invention is described as being part of a computer system that designs a chip mask, synthesizes the probes on the chip, labels the nucleic acids, and scans the hybridized nucleic acid probes. Such a system is fully described in U.S. Patent Application No. 08/249,188 which has been incorporated by

reference for all purposes. However, the present invention may be used separately from the overall system for analyzing data generated by such systems.

FIG. 3 illustrates a computerized system for forming and analyzing arrays of biological materials such as RNA or DNA. A computer 100 is used to design arrays of biological polymers such as RNA or DNA. The computer 100 may be, for example, an appropriately programmed Sun Workstation or personal computer or workstation, such as an IBM PC equivalent, including appropriate memory and a CPU as shown in FIGs. 1 and 2. The computer system 100 obtains inputs from a user regarding characteristics of a gene of interest, and other inputs regarding the desired features of the array. Optionally, the computer system may obtain information regarding the desired features of the array. Optionally, the computer system may obtain information regarding a specific genetic sequence of interest from an external or internal database 102 such as GenBank. The output of the computer system 100 is a set of chip design computer files 104 in the form or, for example, a switch matrix, as described in PCT application WO 92/10092, and other associated computer files.

The chip design files are provided to a system 106 that designs the lithographic masks used in the fabrication of arrays of molecules such as DNA. The system or process 106 may include the hardware necessary to manufacture masks 110 and also the necessary computer hardware and software 108 necessary to lay the mask patterns out on the mask in an efficient manner. As with the other features in FIG. 3, such equipment may or may not be located at the same physical site, but is shown together for ease of illustration in FIG. 3. The system 106 generates masks 110 or other synthesis patterns such as chrome-on-glass masks for use in the fabrication of polymer arrays.

The masks 110, as well as selected information relating to the design of the chips from system 100, are used in a synthesis system 112. Synthesis system 112 includes the necessary hardware and software used to fabricate arrays of polymers on a substrate or chip 114. For example, synthesizer 112 includes a light source 116 and a chemical flow cell 118 on which the substrate or chip 114 is placed. Mask 110 is placed between the light source and the substrate/chip, and the two are translated relative to each other at appropriate times for deprotection of selected regions of the chip. Selected chemical reagents are directed through flow cell 118 for coupling to deprotected regions, as well as for washing and other operations. All operations are

preferably directed by an appropriately programmed computer 119, which may or may not be the same computer as the computer(s) used in mask design and mask making.

The substrates fabricated by synthesis system 112 are optionally diced into smaller chips and exposed to marked targets. The targets may or may not be complementary to one or more of the molecules on the substrate. The targets are marked with a label such as a fluorescein label (indicated by an asterisk in FIG. 3) and placed in scanning system 120. Scanning system 120 again operates under the direction of an appropriately programmed digital computer 122, which also may or may not be the same computer as the computers used in synthesis, mask making, and mask design. The scanner 120 includes a detection device 124 such as a confocal microscope or CCD (charge-coupled device) that is used to detect the location where labeled target (*) has bound to the substrate. The output of scanner 120 is an image file(s) 124 indicating, in the case of fluorescein labeled target, the fluorescence intensity (photon counts or other related measurements, such as voltage) as a function of position on the substrate. Since higher photon counts will be observed where the labeled target has bound more strongly to the array of polymers (e.g., DNA probes on the substrate), and since the monomer sequence of the polymers on the substrate is known as a function of position, it becomes possible to determine the sequence(s) of polymer(s) on the substrate that are complementary to the target.

The image file 124 is provided as input to an analysis system 126 that incorporates the visualization and analysis methods of the present invention. Again, the analysis system may be any one of a wide variety of computer system(s), but in a preferred embodiment the analysis system is based on a Sun Workstation or equivalent. The present invention provides various methods of analyzing the chip design files and the image files, providing appropriate output 128. The present invention may further be used to identify specific mutations in a target such as DNA or RNA.

FIG. 4 provides a simplified illustration of the overall software system used in the operation of one embodiment of the invention. As shown in FIG. 4, in some cases (such as sequence checking systems) the system first identifies the genetic sequence(s) or targets that would be of interest in a particular analysis at step 202. The sequences of interest may identify a virus, microorganism or individual.

Additionally, the sequence of interest may provide information about genetic diseases, cancers or infectious diseases. Sequence selection may be provided via manual input of text files or may be from external sources such as GenBank. In a preferred embodiment that performs de novo sequencing of target nucleic acids, this steps is not
5 necessary as the chip includes all the possible n-mer probes (where n represents the length of the nucleic acid probe).

For de novo sequencing, a chip may be synthesized to include cells containing all the possible probes of a specific length. For example, a chip may be synthesized that includes all the possible 8-mer DNA probes. Such a chip would have 65,536
10 cells ($4*4*4*4*4*4*4*4$), with each cell corresponding to a particular probe. A chip may also include other probes including all the probes of other lengths.

At step 204 the system determines which probes would be desirable on the chip, and provides an appropriate “layout” on the chip for the probes. The layout implements desired characteristics such as an arrangement on the chip that permits
15 “reading” of genetic sequence and/or minimization of edge effects, ease of synthesis, and the like.

Again, referring to FIG. 4, at step 206 the masks for the synthesis are designed. At step 208 the software utilizes the mask design and layout information to make the DNA or other polymer chips. This software 208 will control, among other
20 things, relative translation of a substrate and the mask, the flow of desired reagents through a flow cell, the synthesis temperature of the flow cell, and other parameters. At step 210, another piece of software is used in scanning a chip thus synthesized and exposed to a labeled target. The software controls the scanning of the chip, and stores the data thus obtained in a file that may later be utilized to extract sequence
25 information.

At step 212 a computer system according to the present invention utilizes the layout information and the fluorescence information to evaluate the hybridized nucleic acid probes on the chip. Among the important pieces of information obtained from DNA probe arrays are the identification of mutant targets and determination of
30 the genetic sequence of a particular target.

FIG. 5 illustrates the binding of a particular target DNA to an array of DNA probes 114. As shown in this simple example, the following probes are formed in the array:

3'-AGAACGT
 AGACCGT
 AGAGCGT
 AGATCGT

5

As shown, when the fluorescein-labeled (or otherwise marked) target 5'-TCTTGCA is exposed to the array, it is complementary only to the probe 3'-AGAACGT, and fluorescein will be primarily found on the surface of the chip where 3'-AGAACGT is located. The chip contains cells that include multiple copies of a particular probe. Thus, the image file will contain fluorescence intensities, one for each probe (or cell). By analyzing the fluorescence intensities associated with a specific probe, it becomes possible to extract sequence information from such arrays using the methods of the invention disclosed herein.

For ease of reference, one may call bases by assigning the bases the following codes:

	<u>Code</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
	A	A	Adenine
20	C	C	Cytosine
	G	G	Guanine
	T	T (U)	Thymine (Uracil)
	M	A or C	aMino
	R	A or G	puRine
25	W	A or T (U)	Weak interaction (2 H bonds)
	Y	C or T (U)	pYrimidine
	S	C or G	Strong interaction (3 H bonds)
	K	G or T (U)	Keto
	V	A, C or G	not T (U)
30	H	A, C or T (U)	not G
	D	A, G or T (U)	not C
	B	C, G or T (U)	not A
	N	A, C, G or T (U)	Insufficient intensity to call
	X	A, C, G, or T (U)	In sufficient discrimination to call

Most of the codes conform to the IUPAC standard. However, code N has been redefined and code X has been added.

Sequencing Utilizing Mismatch Information

The present invention provides methods of sequencing nucleic acid sequences utilizing mismatch information. When used herein, "mismatch information" relates to base mismatches between or among nucleic acid probes. Mismatch information may include the number of base mismatches, the location of the base mismatches and the
5 base differences. The mismatch information may be combined with information from the hybridization intensity to sequence the nucleic acid sequence with a high degree of accuracy. In a preferred embodiment, the present invention is utilized for de novo sequencing of nucleic acids.

In order to illustrate what mismatch information or the pattern of mismatches
10 may include, a hypothetical example will be described. Suppose the target nucleic acid is an 8-mer (meaning that the target nucleic acid consists of eight bases or nucleotides) and that the target is exposed to a chip including the complete set of 8-mer probes. In order to simplify this example, further assume that the 1 probe that is perfectly complementary to the target and the 24 probes that contain a single base
15 mismatch (i.e., perfectly complementary except for a single base mismatch) have the highest hybridization intensities because they hybridize most strongly to the target.

Thus, if the target is ACTGGTCT-3', the following would be the probes having the highest measured intensities in this example:

20	Perfect Complement	TGACCAGA-5'
	One base mismatches	GGACCAGA-5'
		AGACCAGA-5'
		CGACCAGA-5'
		TAACCAGA-5'
25		TCACCAGA-5'
		TTACCAGA-5'
		.
		.
		.

and so forth for the other six positions. The set of these 25 probes may be analyzed to
30 sequence the target nucleic acid. Although typically, the target nucleic acid is longer than the probes, the example provides a good illustration of aspects of the present invention.

For many reasons, probes that are perfectly or exactly complementary to the target may not have the highest hybridization intensities. Therefore, a probe that is
35 perfectly complementary to the target often cannot be identified from the rank order of hybridization intensities. The present invention utilizes mismatch information

among the nucleic acid probes to sequence the target where all of the nucleic acid probes that are perfectly complementary to part of the target may not be readily identified.

The present invention identifies neighbor-rich probes which are then utilized to sequence the target nucleic acid. A “neighbor-rich probe” is a probe that is related to many other probes in the probe space by a single base mismatch. A probe that has a single base mismatch with another probe will be referred to as a “single base mismatch neighbor.” Neighbor-rich probes may be identified according to mismatch information as follows.

After a set of probes is identified, each probe in the set is compared to the other probes to determine how the probe’s sequence compares to the other probes. In the example above, one probe differs from the other 24 probes by a single base mismatch (i.e., $m=1$, where m is the number of mismatches). Thus, this one probe is related to or has 24 single base mismatch neighbors.

By contrast, twenty-four probes differ from 3 other probes in the set by a single base mismatch and from 21 other probes in the set by a double base mismatch (i.e., $m=2$). In this simple example, the perfectly complementary probe may be identified as a neighbor-rich probe from the mismatch information because it has many single mismatch neighbor probes in the probe space. The perfectly complementary probe had 8 times as many single mismatch neighbor probes as nearly-complementary probes. Although the hybridization conditions did not allow identification of the perfectly complementary probes, an analysis of mismatch information may be utilized to identify the perfectly complementary probe. In practice, mismatch information may be utilized for de novo sequencing of a target nucleic acid where oligonucleotide probes are contacted with the target under conditions that do not allow differentiation between those probes that are perfectly complementary to part of the target and those probes that are not.

In this example, the sequence of the target was known. However, in many applications including de novo sequencing the sequence of the target is unknown. Nevertheless, the example is useful in demonstrating how neighbor-rich probes may be identified.

A. One Embodiment

FIG. 6 shows a high level flow of sequencing utilizing mismatch information. At step 500, hybridization intensities from probes or other data indicative of binding affinity are input into the system. The system may receive the hybridization intensities many different ways. The system may operate the scanning device directly, the system may receive the hybridization intensities from another computer system that measured the intensities, or an operator may manually enter the data. There may be thousands or tens of thousands of hybridization intensities that correspond to nucleic acid probes on a chip. Typically, the chip includes all possible probes of a specific length in order to sequence the target.

At step 502, the system selects a set of probes associated with the highest hybridization intensities (i.e., that show the strongest binding affinity). Selecting the probes with the highest hybridization intensities may be done in any number of ways. For example, the system may use an intensity threshold value and select the probes whose hybridization intensities are higher than the intensity threshold (e.g., 100 photon counts). The system may select a specific number or percentage of probes (e.g., 50 probes or the top 10%) that have the highest hybridization intensities. Additionally, the system may select the probes that have a hybridization intensity greater than a specific percentage (e.g., 40%) of the highest hybridization intensity.

After the set of probes with the strongest binding affinity is selected, the system calculates the number of single base mismatch neighbors for each probe in the set at step 504. For example, in one embodiment, a probe is first selected in order to compare the selected probe to the other probes. The system then determines how many of the other probes in the set are identical to the selected probe except for a single base mismatch at one base position. The number of single base mismatch neighbors is calculated for each of the probes having the highest hybridization intensities. Additionally, the system may calculate and utilize the number of double base mismatches in an extension of the concepts herein.

At step 506, the system selects the probes in the set with the highest number of single base mismatch neighbors. Selecting the probes with the highest number of neighbors may be done in any number of ways including utilizing a threshold, a specific number of the probes, or greater than a specific percentage of the highest number of neighbors. In one embodiment, the system selects the probes in the set

with the highest number of neighbors and the highest hybridization intensities. In other words, a second intensity threshold is utilized to further reduce the set of probes.

The selected probes with the highest number of single base mismatch neighbors are the neighbor-rich probes. The neighbor-rich probes are then aligned at step 508. The neighbor-rich probes are aligned or compiled so that they have the most bases in common. Thus, neighbor-rich probes that have a single base mismatch are aligned to form an aligned set of probes. Aligned sets of probes are then aligned in a skewed fashion in the way that reduces the number of base mismatches between sets of probes. At step 510, the aligned probes are utilized to sequence the target nucleic acid sequence. The target may be sequenced in many different ways including the formation of a consensus sequence may be produced as described in the following example.

B. Example

A target of 5'-AGTTGTAGTGGATGG (SEQ ID NO:1) was exposed to a chip containing 8-mer probes. The highest hybridization intensity was 331 photon counts. An intensity threshold of 90 photon counts was utilized and there were 133 probes that had a hybridization intensity greater than the intensity threshold of 90. These 133 probes provided the set of probes with the highest hybridization intensities and are as follows:

	<u>Probe</u>	<u>Intensity</u>	<u>m = 1</u>	<u>m = 2</u>
20	3'-ACATCACC	331	12	10
	3'-CATCACCT	286	11	12
	3'-ATCACCTA	323	10	8
	3'-CATCACCA	253	8	12
25	3'-ACAACATC	331	7	10
	3'-AATCACCT	131	7	14
	3'-ACATCACA	330	7	10
	3'-ACCTACCA	280	7	6
	3'-CACCTACC	204	7	2
30	3'-ACTCACCT	188	7	11
	3'-CCATCACC	270	6	13
	3'-TTCACCTA	134	6	10
	3'-ACACCACC	98	6	14
	3'-TCAACATC	331	6	10
35	3'-TCATCACC	238	5	17
	3'-CTCTCCTA	203	5	10
	3'-ACACCAAC	122	5	10
	3'-ACACCTAC	272	5	8

	3'-ACCTACCC	108	5	7
	3'-TCATCACA	147	5	7
	3'-CAACATCA	275	5	5
	3'-CAACACCT	183	5	15
5	3'-CACCACCT	113	5	15
	3'-ATCACCAC	157	5	6
	3'-TCCACCTA	112	5	7
	3'-TCACCTAC	248	5	6
	3'-TGCACCTA	105	5	6
10	3'-TATCACCT	143	5	13
	3'-CCACCTAC	208	5	5
	3'-ACAACACC	147	5	18
	3'-CCAACATC	325	4	10
	3'-GCATCACC	262	4	15
15	3'-GCACCTAC	199	4	6
	3'-AACATCAC	148	4	1
	3'-AGTCACCT	90	4	9
	3'-CAACATCT	101	4	5
	3'-CCATCACA	181	4	9
20	3'-CGCACCTA	127	4	6
	3'-TCAACACC	129	4	13
	3'-ATCACCTT	229	4	9
	3'-ACACCTAA	155	4	6
	3'-CAACACCA	100	4	14
25	3'-ACACACCT	305	4	11
	3'-TCACCTAA	176	4	4
	3'-ACACACCA	174	4	8
	3'-CAGCACCT	111	4	13
	3'-ATCACCAA	115	4	11
30	3'-ATCACCTC	137	4	13
	3'-GCATCACA	156	4	7
	3'-TACACCTA	96	4	7
	3'-CCTCACCT	102	4	14
	3'-TCAACCTC	132	4	6
35	3'-CACCACCA	91	4	13
	3'-CATCACCC	131	4	17
	3'-GCAACATC	319	4	9
	3'-CATCAACC	105	4	6
	3'-CACCTACA	187	4	5
40	3'-ACACCATC	128	4	13
	3'-ACCTACCT	112	4	11
	3'-ATTCACCT	91	4	10
	3'-CCACCTAA	111	4	5
	3'-GCACCTAA	127	4	3
45	3'-AGCACCTA	148	4	11
	3'-GTCACCTA	141	3	12
	3'-ACATCACT	164	3	13
	3'-CATCACCG	163	3	15
	3'-CCCTACCA	133	3	6
50	3'-ACCTACCG	119	3	8

	3'-ACAGCACC	101	3	14
	3'-ATCACCCA	106	3	12
	3'-CGTCACCT	114	3	12
	3'-CAACATCC	148	3	7
5	3'-ACAACCTC	114	3	10
	3'-ATCAACCT	120	3	7
	3'-ACCAACCA	104	3	12
	3'-GCCTACCA	111	3	4
	3'-CACCAACA	119	3	8
10	3'-ACTCACCA	143	3	12
	3'-ACCACCTA	141	3	17
	3'-CTATCACC	100	3	4
	3'-CAACATCG	137	3	4
	3'-ACGCACCT	110	3	11
15	3'-TCACCATC	102	3	10
	3'-CACACCTA	102	3	7
	3'-CACCTACT	106	3	6
	3'-CACCAACC	103	3	11
	3'-ATCACCTG	106	3	9
20	3'-ACATCACG	149	3	13
	3'-GCAACCTC	93	3	4
	3'-AAGCACCT	92	3	11
	3'-ATCATCAC	90	3	6
	3'-TCCTACCA	91	3	4
25	3'-ATCAACCA	103	3	5
	3'-ACCAACCT	97	3	10
	3'-GATCACCT	102	3	14
	3'-TCACCAAC	102	3	10
	3'-ACCTACTC	102	3	3
30	3'-CACCTACG	99	3	5
	3'-CCTCACCA	91	3	12
	3'-ATCACCAT	125	3	8
	3'-TCAACCTA	104	2	8
	3'-ACCATCAC	113	2	5
35	3'-CATCTACC	94	2	8
	3'-CAATCACC	94	2	6
	3'-ACATCAAC	154	2	15
	3'-ACCTACAC	113	2	5
	3'-ACACATCA	128	2	6
40	3'-CCACATCA	90	2	7
	3'-TATCACCA	97	2	12
	3'-CACATCAC	154	2	3
	3'-TCAACACA	97	2	8
	3'-TACCACCT	91	2	9
45	3'-ATCCACCT	105	2	11
	3'-ACACACCG	122	2	5
	3'-ACACCACA	90	2	14
	3'-ATATCACC	96	2	12
	3'-TACATCAC	128	2	2
50	3'-CAACCTAC	116	1	6

	3'-CATCACAA	107	1	7
	3'-ACCTCACC	102	1	13
	3'-ACCAACTC	96	1	9
	3'-TATCAACC	94	1	6
5	3'-TACCTACC	99	1	8
	3'-ACCACATC	128	1	12
	3'-ATCACAAAC	153	1	5
	3'-CCTACATC	93	1	4
	3'-CACCTAAC	95	1	7
10	3'-CCTACCAA	128	0	0
	3'-TACACACC	91	0	2
	3'-CAACCATC	93	0	5
	3'-GTTAAGAG	329	0	0
	3'-AGCAACAT	94	0	3
15	3'-TCTATGCG	33	0	0

where the columns denoted $m = 1$ and $m = 2$ indicate the number of single and double base mismatch neighbors, respectively. Thus, each probe was compared to the other 132 probes to determine the number of single and double base mismatches the probe had with the other probes. The highest number of single base mismatch neighbor probes was 12 and the probes are presented in decreasing order according to the number of single base mismatch neighbor probes.

A set of neighbor-rich probes was identified by selecting the probes that had a hybridization intensity greater than 40% of 331 ($0.40 \times 331 = 132.4$), and the number of single base mismatch neighbors greater than 40% of 12 ($0.40 \times 12 = 4.8$). The

following is the list of neighbor-rich probes selected in this manner:

	<u>Probe</u>	<u>Intensity</u>	<u>$m = 1$</u>	<u>$m = 2$</u>
	3'-ACACCTAC	272	5	8
	3'-ACATCACC	331	12	10
	3'-ACATCACA	330	7	10
30	3'-ACAACACC	147	5	18
	3'-ACAACATC	331	7	10
	3'-ACCTACCA	280	7	6
	3'-ATCACCAC	157	5	6
	3'-ATCACCTA	323	10	8
35	3'-ACTCACCT	188	7	11
	3'-CAACATCA	275	5	5
	3'-CAACACCT	183	5	15
	3'-CCACCTAC	208	5	5
	3'-CCATCACC	270	6	13
40	3'-CTCACCTA	203	5	10
	3'-CATCACCT	286	11	12
	3'-CATCACCA	253	8	12
	3'-TCACCTAC	248	5	6

	3'-TCATCACC	238	5	17
	3'-TCATCACA	147	5	7
	3'-TCAACATC	331	6	10
	3'-TTCACCTA	134	6	10
5	3'-TATCACCT	143	5	13

where again $m = 1$ and $m = 2$ indicates the number of single and double base mismatch neighbors, respectively, with other probes in the set of probes with a hybridization intensity greater than 90.

Once the neighbor-rich probes having a high hybridization intensity and high number of single base mismatch neighbors have been selected, the neighbor-rich probes were utilized to sequence the target nucleic acid sequence. The system utilized the frequency of bases at each position to produce a consensus sequence, where a "consensus sequence" is a sequence generated by neighbor-rich probes to sequence the target.

In order to produce a consensus sequence, the system aligned the neighbor-rich probes so that each probe had the highest number of bases in common with other probes. The following are the aligned neighbor-rich probes with the complement of the target sequence shown for reference. The target sequence is known in this example by the target sequence may be an unknown sequence or only partially known.

	ACACCTAC
	ACATCACC
	ACATCACA
25	ACAACACC
	ACAACATC
	ACCTACCA
	ATCACCAC
	ATCACCTA
30	ACTCACCT
	CAACATCA
	CAACACCT
	CCACCTAC
	CCATCACC
35	CTCACCTA
	CATCACCT
	CATCACCA
	TCACCTAC
	TCATCACC
40	TCATCCA

TCAACATC
TTCACCTA
TATCACCT

Target

5 Component- TCAACATCACCTACC (SEQ ID NO:2)

After the neighbor-rich probes are aligned, the system counts the number or frequency of each base (A, C, G and T) at each position. After the frequency of bases at each position is calculated, the system produces a consensus sequence. In one
10 embodiment, the base that occurred the most at a position is utilized to produce the consensus sequence if the base occurred is greater than 50% at that position. The following is a matrix of base vs. frequency that was used to produce the consensus sequence in this manner:

		Frequency															
Base	A	2	0	5	8	2	17	2	0	17	2	2	3	5	0	0	
	C	0	5	0	1	15	4	3	22	2	16	16	1	1	2	1	
	G	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	T	1	0	0	2	1	1	18	1	1	1	0	9	0	0	0	
Consensus		--	C	A	A	C	A	T	C	A	C	C	T	A	--	--	

15 (SEQ ID NO:3) Therefore, for the first position in the consensus sequence (left-most in the matrix), base A occurred 66% (2 divided by 3) of the time which is greater than 50%, however, the base did not occur more than 2 times so the base is called as ambiguous (i.e., "--").

The consensus sequence is the complement of the target, thus, the target is
20 sequenced according to the complement of the consensus sequence. In this example, the target sequence was 5'-AGTTGTAGTGGATGG (SEQ ID NO:1) and it was correctly sequenced as 5'-GTTGTAGTGGAT (SEQ ID NO:4) (the terminal bases being ambiguous). The parameters for producing the consensus sequence may be varied according to the experimental data. For example, if the consensus sequence
25 was formed solely by the bases that occur most often at each position, the consensus sequence would be perfectly complementary to the target nucleic acid for this data. However, this will not always be the case.

Software Appendix A provides a BASIC source code illustration of this embodiment of the invention. The source code is written in Quick BASIC for an IBM compatible personal computer.

C. Alternate Embodiment

5 FIG. 7 shows a high level flow of another embodiment of sequencing utilizing mismatch information. At step 550, hybridization intensities are input into the system. The system may receive the hybridization intensities many different ways. The system may operate the scanning device directly, the system may receive the hybridization intensities from another computer system that measured the intensities, or an operator
10 may manually enter the data.

 At step 552, the system selects a set of probes associated with the highest hybridization intensities. Selecting the probes with the highest hybridization intensities may be done in any number of ways. For example, the system may use an intensity threshold value and select the probes whose hybridization intensities are higher than the
15 intensity threshold. The system may select a specific number or percentage of probes that have the highest hybridization intensities. Alternatively, the system may select the probes that have a hybridization greater than a specific percentage of the highest hybridization intensity.

 After the set of probes with the highest hybridization intensities is selected, the
20 system calculates the number of straight mismatches for each probe in the set at step 554. "Straight mismatches" refers to base mismatches between probes where the bases at corresponding positions are compared (e.g., as was done in the previous embodiment). For example, a probe 3'-AACAT is compared to a probe 3'-AACTT by aligning the probes as follows:

25 3'-AACAT
 3'-AACTT

 Each probe has n bases, where $n = 5$. If the base at the 3' end is at position 1, there is a single mismatch at the fourth position where the A and T do not match. Thus, straight mismatches are determined by comparing bases at the same position in each probe (i.e.,
30 $z = 0$, where z indicates the number of bases one of the probes was skewed or offset from the other probe before comparing).

In one embodiment, a matrix is formed to show the straight mismatches between probes. FIG. 8 shows a straight mismatch matrix for 50 probes. For simplicity, each probe is assigned an identification number from 1 to 50. The numbers on the rows and columns of the matrix correspond to the identification number of the probe. The value in the matrix represents the number of straight mismatches between the probes designated by the row and column. If there are more than 2 mismatches, the matrix shows a "." at the appropriate matrix location. Since a diagonal of the matrix shows the number of straight mismatches between the same probe, the diagonal contains 0's because the probe is being compared to itself (i.e., there are no straight mismatches). Also, the matrix is identical on each side of diagonal.

The system calculates the number of skewed mismatches for each probe in the set at step 556. "Skewed mismatches" refers to base mismatches between probes where the bases at offset positions are compared. For example, a probe 3'-CGAATCAA is compared to a probe 3'-GCATCAAC by aligning the probes as follows:

15 3'-CGAATCAA
 3'-GCATCCAC

Each probe has n bases, where n = 8. If the base at the 3' end is at position 1, bases at position 1 through 7 (or n-1) of the first probe is compared to bases at position 2 through 9 (or n). As shown, there are two mismatches (double mismatch) when the probes are skewed a single base position (i.e., z = 1, where z indicates the number of bases one of the probes is skewed or offset from the other probe before comparing).

In one embodiment, a matrix is formed to show the skewed mismatches between probes. FIG. 9 shows a skewed mismatch matrix for 50 probes. As in FIG. 8, the rows and columns of the matrix correspond to the identification number of the probe which is 1 to 50. The value in the matrix represents the number of skewed mismatches between the probes designated by the row and column. If there are more than 2 mismatches, the matrix shows a "." at the appropriate matrix location. As shown, a diagonal will not contain 0's and the matrix is not identical on each side of the diagonal. Although the probes were skewed a single base position, the probes may be skewed more positions when they are compared in an extension of the principles herein.

At step 558, the system selects the probes with less than some small number straight mismatches and less than some small number of skewed mismatches. In one

embodiment, the system identifies the probes in the matrices that have less than 2 straight mismatches and less than 3 skewed mismatches. The parameters for selecting these probes with few mismatches may be carried according to the experimental data.

The selected probes are then aligned at step 560. The probes are aligned so that they have the most bases in common. The mismatch information concerning the straight mismatches and skewed mismatches is utilized to align the probes so that the number of mismatches between the probes is reduced. At step 562, the aligned probes are utilized to sequence the target nucleic acid sequence. The target may be sequenced in many different ways. For example, a consensus sequence may be produced as described in the following example.

D. Example

A target of 5'-AGTTGTAGTGGATGGT (SEQ ID NO:5) was exposed to a chip containing 10-mer probes. Fifty probes were selected that have the highest hybridization intensities (step 552). FIGs. 11 and 12 show the straight and skewed mismatch matrices for the fifty probes (steps 554 and 556). Forty-seven probes were selected that have less than 2 straight mismatches with at least one other probe and less than 3 skewed mismatches with at least one other probe (step 558).

The straight and skewed mismatch information was utilized to align the 47 probes (step 560). For example, FIG. 9 shows that the probe identified as 2 on the row had a 0 skewed mismatches with the probe identified as 1 on the column. Therefore, probes 2 and 1 align well if they are offset a single base position. The following are the aligned 47 probes:

25	AACATCACCT	(SEQ ID NO:8)
	CAACATCACC	(SEQ ID NO:9)
	ACATCACCTA	(SEQ ID NO:10)
	ACAACATCAC	(SEQ ID NO:11)
	CAACATCACA	(SEQ ID NO:12)
	ATCACCTACC	(SEQ ID NO:13)
30	AACATCACCA	(SEQ ID NO:14)
	CACATCACCT	(SEQ ID NO:15)
	AACATCACCG	(SEQ ID NO:16)
	TCAACATCAC	(SEQ ID NO:17)
	CATCACCTAC	(SEQ ID NO:18)
35	CCAACATCAC	(SEQ ID NO:19)
	ACACCTACCA	(SEQ ID NO:20)
	CAACATCACG	(SEQ ID NO:21)

	GCAACATCAC	(SEQ ID NO:22)
	ACATCACCTT	(SEQ ID NO:23)
	AACATCACCC	(SEQ ID NO:24)
	AGCACCTACC	(SEQ ID NO:25)
5	AAACATCACC	(SEQ ID NO:26)
	ACCATCACCT	(SEQ ID NO:27)
	ACATCACCAT	(SEQ ID NO:28)
	CACCTACCAA	(SEQ ID NO:29)
	ACATCACCTC	(SEQ ID NO:30)
10	ATCACCTACA	(SEQ ID NO:31)
	ACATCACCTG	(SEQ ID NO:32)
	ACACATCACC	(SEQ ID NO:33)
	GAACATCACC	(SEQ ID NO:34)
	TACATCACCT	(SEQ ID NO:35)
15	TAACATCACC	(SEQ ID NO:36)
	CACCTACCAG	(SEQ ID NO:37)
	GACATCACCT	(SEQ ID NO:38)
	CACATCACCA	(SEQ ID NO:39)
	ATCATCACCT	(SEQ ID NO:40)
20	ACCTACCATC	(SEQ ID NO:41)
	ACAACATCAA	(SEQ ID NO:42)
	CAACATCACT	(SEQ ID NO:43)
	ACATCACCAA	(SEQ ID NO:44)
	CACATCACCG	(SEQ ID NO:45)
25	ACATCACCTT	(SEQ ID NO:46)
	CACCTACCAC	(SEQ ID NO:47)
	CATCACCTAA	(SEQ ID NO:48)
	TCACCTACCA	(SEQ ID NO:49)
	CACCTACCAT	(SEQ ID NO:50)
30	CCATCACCTA	(SEQ ID NO:51)
	ACATCACCCA	(SEQ ID NO:52)
	ACATCACCGA	(SEQ ID NO:53)
	ATCAACATCA	(SEQ ID NO:54)

After the selected probes were aligned, the system counts the number of occurrences of each base (A, C, G and T) at each position. After the frequency of bases at each position is calculated, the system produces a consensus sequence which should be complementary to the target sequence. If the system utilized bases that occurred more than 2 times and the frequency that the base occurred is greater than 50% at that position, the consensus sequence 3'-CAACATCACCTACCA (SEQ ID NO:6) is produced.

The consensus sequence is ideally the complement of the target; thus, the target is sequenced according to the complement of the consensus sequence (consensus' where

the prime denotes the complement). In this example, the target and consensus' sequence were as follows:

Target AGTTGTAGTGGATGGT

Consensus' GTTGTAGTGGATGGT

5 (SEQ ID NO:5 and SEQ ID NO:7) (one terminal base of the consensus sequence being ambiguous). Thus, the target was sequenced with a high degree of accuracy utilizing mismatch information. The parameters for producing the consensus sequence may be varied according to the experimental data.

Software Appendix B provides a BASIC source code illustration of this
10 embodiment of the invention. The source code is written in Quick BASIC for an IBM compatible personal computer.

Conclusion

The above description is illustrative and not restrictive. Many variations of the invention will become apparent to those of skill in the art upon review of this disclosure.
15 Merely by way of example, while the invention is illustrated with particular reference to the evaluation of DNA (natural or unnatural), the methods can be used in the analysis from chips with other materials synthesized thereon, such as RNA. The scope of the invention should, therefore, be determined not with reference to the above description, by instead should be determined with reference to the appended claims along with their
20 full scope of equivalents.